

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 NRC-07 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 /142 W
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R 061816Z MAY 75

FM U S MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2683

UNCLAS GENEVA 3269

FROM USDEL NPT REVCON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: NPT REVCON: EXCERPTS FROM MME. THORSSON PRESS CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT OF NPT REVCON, MME. INGA THORSSON,
HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF MAY 6 IN PALAIS.
FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE NOT VERBATIM BUT ARE VERY
CLOSE TO BEING SO:

QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE WEAKNESSES IN NPT YOU REFER TO AND
HOW CAN THEY BE OVERCOME BY A "RINGING" DECLARATION?

ANSWER: THE TREATY OBVIOUSLY HAS WEAKNESSES BECAUSE
THERE ARE STILL NATIONS WHICH ARE NOT PARTIES. WE
MUST ASK OURSELVES WHY NPT NOT UNIVERSAL. WE WILL EXAMINE
ALL ARTICLES, BUT IT IS A MATTER OF IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PROVISIONS RATHER THAN A MATTER OF SOMETHING
TO CRITICIZE IN THE ARTICLES THEMSELVES.

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE AMENDMENTS?

ANSWER: THE NPT WAS CAREFULLY NEGOTIATED; IT TOOK
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YEARS OF WORK. SERIOUS PROBLEMS WOULD BE RAISED BY

ATTEMPTING AMENDMENTS. IT IS THE GENERAL VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE THAT IT SHOULD NOT ADOPT AMENDMENTS.

QUESTION: HAVE NOT THE SUPERPOWERS MORE OR LESS VIOLATED THE TREATY, AT LEAST IN SPIRIT?

ANSWER: WELL, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SOME DELEGATIONS STATED IT IN THAT LANGUAGE. ARTICLE VI WILL CERTAINLY COME UP IN VERY FRANK AND LIVELY DISCUSSION. I KNOW THE ATTITUDE OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES.

QUESTION: INDIA HAS EXPLODED A DEVICE, AND THE BRITISH SAY THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AND A BOMB. IS THERE ANY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM?

ANSWER: I CANNOT SEE A TECHNICAL SOLUTION. I THINK THE BRITISH ARE RIGHT. NO DISTINCTION WAS MADE IN ARTICLES I AND II. INTENTIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH. THE CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS ARTICLE V OF THE NPT BUT I WANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE WORD "POTENTIAL" IN THAT ARTICLE.

QUESTION: IAEA DIRECTOR EKLUND SAID THERE ARE 350 REACTORS IN 20 COUNTRIES. WILL THE CONFERENCE TAKE UP SAFEGUARDS?

ANSWER: THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS. UNDER ARTICLE III-1, THE ENTIRE PEACEFUL PROGRAM OF A NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON PARTY IS COVERED. UNDER ARTICLE III-2, PROVISION IS MADE FOR EXPORT OF MATERIALS TO RECIPIENTS OUTSIDE NPT. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE EXPORTER TO MAKE SURE THE MATERIAL IS

SAFEGUARDED. THERE IS A FEELING OF DISCRIMINATION THAT PARTIES ARE SUBJECT TO MORE SEVERE PROCEDURES THAN NON-PARTIES. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT FRANCE?
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ANSWER: FRANCE HAS SAID PUBLICLY THAT IT WILL ACT AS IF A PARTY. FRANCE HAS SO BEHAVED IN DEALING COMMERCIALY.

QUESTION: WHAT CHANGES COULD YOU ENVISAGE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO SAFEGUARDS?

ANSWER: I WOULD ENVISAGE EXTENDING THE MORE SEVERE SAFEGUARDS TO ALL STATES, IRRESPECTIVE OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE TREATY. THAT OF COURSE WOULD REQUIRE THE CONSENT OF ALL THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: THAT IS THE WHIP BUT WHERE IS THE CARROT?

ANSWER: IF THERE IS A STRONG DESIRE TO DEVELOP A NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM, THESE COUNTRIES MIGHT VERY CLEARLY SEE, IF THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES AGREE, THAT THEY SHOULD ESTABLISH THIS STRICTER SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM. THEY WILL SEE THAT THEY WILL NEED TO ADHERE TO THE SAFEGUARDS, AND OVER THE YEARS WE WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH SUCH A SYSTEM. NOT ONLY TO GET WIDER ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND MAKE IT MORE UNIVERSAL, BUT ALSO TO TRY TO PREVENT THE DANGER THAT IS SO WIDELY DISCUSSED TODAY, NOT ONLY DIVERSION BUT ALSO THEFT OR SABOTAGE. I THINK THIS REALLY HAS REALITY. IF PRESENT TRENDS CONTINUE, ENORMOUS, ASTRONOMIC INCREASES IN BY-PRODUCTS WILL RESULT, NOT ONLY PLUTONIUM BUT HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE WASTES. A STRICTER SYSTEM WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL.

QUESTION: DO YOU EXPECT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIETS TO ANNOUNCE ANY NEW MEASURES OR AGREEMENTS?

ANSWER: IF I COULD HOPE FOR THE MAXIMUM RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE, I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE FOR THIS TO HAPPEN. BUT THERE IS A MAXIMUM AND A MINIMUM. I SAID YESTERDAY THAT I HOPE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS TO BE TAKEN AND THIS WOULD CERTAINLY INVOLVE THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WILL COME UP WITH, BUT I BELIEVE THEY ARE VERY UNCLASSIFIED

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AWARE THAT SOMETHING IS EXPECTED OF THEM. WHETHER WE WILL BE NEARER THE MAXIMUM OR THE MINIMUM, I CANNOT SAY.

QUESTION: WHO ARE OBSERVERS?

ANSWER: ALGERIA, CUBA, ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA.

QUESTION: WHEN WILL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE RULE ON OBSERVERS?

ANSWER: I AM SEEKING LEGAL ADVICE. DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE DAY A FORMULA WILL BE FOUND WHICH WILL SATISFY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED

AND WE WILL SOLVE THE MATTER.

QUESTION: WILL IT BE DECIDED BY CONSENSUS?

ANSWER: I WOULD THINK SO. THIS IS TO ME AT LEAST A
MATTER OF SUBSTANCE AND ACCORDINGLY THE RULE OF CONSENSUS
SHOULD APPLY.

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE OPPOSITION?

ANSWER: I EXPECT THIS IS A PROBLEM WHICH WILL BE SOLVED
VERY QUIETLY TODAY.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA03269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750159-0087
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750578/aaaactnu.tel
Line Count: 181
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 23 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 SEP 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPT REVCON: EXCERPTS FROM MME. THORSSON PRESS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT OF NPT REVCON, MME. INGA THORSSON
TAGS: PARM, (THORSSON, INGA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006